

# PETA

According to PETA themselves “People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) is the largest animal rights organization in the world, with more than 6.5 million members and supporters.”(PETA, “Our Mission Statement” [peta.org](http://peta.org)) PETA focuses its attention on the 4 main areas in which the largest numbers of animals suffer the most for the longest periods of time in the food industry, in the clothing trade, in laboratories, and in the entertainment industry. They also work on a variety of other issues, including the cruel killing of rodents, birds, and other animals who are often considered “pests” as well as cruelty to domesticated animals.

PETA was founded in 1980 by Ingrid Newkirk and some of her friends. PETA is dedicated to establishing and defending the rights of all animals. PETA operates under the simple principle that animals are not ours to eat, wear, experiment on, or use for entertainment. PETA educates policymakers and the public about animal abuse and promotes kind treatment of animals. They are an international nonprofit charitable organization based in Norfolk, Virginia, with members and supporters worldwide.

Newkirk, the founder of PETA was born in England in 1949 and according to PETA “Ingrid was born in Surrey, England, and lived in Europe until she was 7 years old, when she and her parents moved to New Delhi, where her father worked as a navigational engineer and her mother volunteered for Mother Teresa and various charities. Ingrid’s early volunteer experiences—packing pills and rolling bandages for people who were suffering from leprosy, stuffing toys for orphans, and feeding stray animals—informed her view that anyone in need, including

animals, is worthy of concern.” She tried her best to create an organization that will fight any form of animal experimentation. She of course succeeded and still is the leader of PETA even in the age of 68. The the question is will she succeed to take away animal experimentation and cruelty from this world completely?